

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A powdered thickener preparation produced by forming a solution, suspension or melt of a mixture comprising
 - a) at least one urethane group-containing, water-soluble or water-dispersible thickener,
 - b) at least one substance solid at room temperature
 - c) optionally a non-ionic, aromatic or aliphatic emulsifier and
 - d) optionally other auxiliary substancesand subsequently converting the products obtained into powder form by
 - 10 drying or grinding.
2. The thickener preparation of claim 1 wherein component (b) is a water-insoluble substance with an average particle size of < 20 µm.
3. The thickener preparation of claim 1 wherein component (b) comprises a water-soluble substance.
- 15 4. The thickener preparation of claim 1 wherein component (b) comprises pyrogenic silica.
5. The thickener preparation of claim 1 wherein component (b) comprises calcium carbonate, magnesium carbonate or mixtures thereof.
6. The thickener preparation of claim 1 wherein component (b)
 - 20 comprises barium sulfate, titanium dioxide or talcum.
7. The thickener preparation of claim 1 wherein component (b) comprises cellulose, sugar or a water-soluble carbohydrate.
8. The thickener preparation of claim 1 wherein component (b) comprises a water-soluble (co)polymer salt of acrylic, methacrylic or
 - 25 aspartic acid.
9. The thickener preparation of claim 1 wherein component (b) comprises urea.
10. A process for adjusting the rheological properties of aqueous systems by adding the thickener preparation of claim 1 to the aqueous
 - 30 system.
11. A composition of matter containing the thickener preparation of claim 1.

12. The composition of matter of claim 11, wherein the composition is an aqueous automotive and industrial lacquer, a stucco- or other paint, a printing ink or a textile dye, a pigment printing paste, an aqueous pharmaceutical and cosmetic formulation, a plant protection 5 formulation, a filler or a pigment dispersion, a preparation of a detergent, adhesive, wax or polish or a preparation for petroleum extraction.